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   Attorneys for Defendant Insurance
    Corporation of New York
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                      UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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                    NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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    FAIRMONT SPECIALTY INSURANCE
                                      No. CV
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   COMPANY, a Delaware corp-
    oration, and TIG INSURANCE
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    COMPANY, a California corp-
    oration,
                                      NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION
18
                                      UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1441
                   Plaintiffs,
                                      (DIVERSITY)
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         vs.
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    INSURANCE CORPORATION OF NEW
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   YORK, a New York corporation,
    DEPENDABLE SHEET METAL, a
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   California corporation, and
   DOES 1 through 10,
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                   Defendants.
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   TO:
        THE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
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        NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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              PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that defendant Insurance
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Corporation of New York ("INSCORP"), a New York corporation, through its attorneys, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1441, hereby removes the above-captioned civil action from the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Contra Costa to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Removal is proper on the following grounds:

Plaintiffs Fairmont Specialty Insurance Company ("Fairmont") and TIG Insurance Company ("TIG") (collectively, "Plaintiffs") filed their Complaint against INSCORP and Dependable Sheet Metal ("Dependable") on May 29, 2007. INSCORP's Agent for Service of Process in California was served with the Summons and Complaint on June 4, 2007. True and correct copies of all process, pleadings, and orders that have been served upon INSCORP to date in the action are attached as Exhibit 1 hereto.

#### Jurisdiction

- The United States District Court for the Northern District of California has original jurisdiction over this action under the diversity statute. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). Diversity jurisdiction exists because, when the parties are properly aligned and/or the fraudulent joinder of Dependable as a defendant is disregarded, there is complete diversity of citizenship between all plaintiffs and defendant INSCORP and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.
- (a) Plaintiff Fairmont is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in the State of Texas. Thus, for purposes of diversity jurisdiction, Fairmont is a citizen of both Delaware and Texas.

- (b) Plaintiff TIG is a California corporation, with its principal place of business in the State of New Hampshire. Thus, for purposes of diversity jurisdiction, TIG is a citizen of both California and New Hampshire.
- (c) Defendant INSCORP is a New York corporation with its principal place of business in the State of Connecticut.

  Thus, for purposes of diversity jurisdiction, INSCORP is a citizen of both New York and Connecticut.
- (d) As set forth more fully below, although defendant Dependable is a California corporation with its principal place of business in California, it is not a proper party to this action and, even if it were, it is not properly aligned as a defendant in this action. Accordingly, the California citizenship of Dependable does not result in a lack of complete diversity of citizenship between all plaintiffs and INSCORP, the only proper defendant.
- (e) Under 28 U.S.C. §1441, "the citizenship of defendants sued under fictitious names shall be disregarded," so the citizenship of defendants "Does 1 through 10" is immaterial. Consequently, there exists complete diversity of citizenship between the parties.

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that the amount in controversy requirement for removal exists:

- In Gary Kaiser v. KB Homes, Case No. C 05-(i) 00991 (Contra Costa County Superior Court) (Complaint, ¶ 6a), Plaintiffs have demanded that INSCORP fund 70.344 percent of a \$50,000 settlement, i.e., \$35,172;
- (ii) In Tannaz Abzarian v. Richland Development Corp., Case No. C 05-00147 (Contra Costa County Superior Court) (Complaint, ¶ 6b), Plaintiffs have demanded that INSCORP fund 76 percent of a \$48,000 settlement, i.e., \$36,480;
- (iii) In Lorna Belsky v. The Presley Companies, Case No. C 05-00837 (Contra Costa County Superior Court) (Complaint, ¶ 6c), Plaintiffs have funded only \$25,000 of a \$40,000 settlement, leaving the \$15,000 balance to be funded by INSCORP; and
- (iv) In Charles Edwards v. Suncrest Homes, Case No. C 05-00387 (Contra Costa County Superior Court) (Complaint,  $\P$  6f), there is an agreed \$20,000 settlement, which Plaintiffs have demanded be funded entirely by INSCORP.

These four cases alone represent claims by Plaintiffs against INSCORP totalling \$106,652, and that is only the indemnity portion of the cases; claims for sharing the costs of defense are not included. Accordingly, it is clear that Plaintiffs' claims against INSCORP exceed the requisite jurisdictional amount.

# Intradistrict Assignment

3. Section 1441(a) of Title 28 of the United States Code provides in pertinent part: "[A]ny civil action brought in a State court of which the district courts of the United States

have original jurisdiction, may be removed by the defendant . . . to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where such action is pending." 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b). The removed action was pending in the Superior Court of Contra Costa County and the underlying construction defect cases are pending primarily in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. Accordingly, pursuant to Civil L.R. 3--2(c), the removed civil action arises in those two counties within the Northern District of California.

# Dependable's Citizenship Should Be Disregarded in Assessing Jurisdiction.

- 4. There are two separate grounds for disregarding the citizenship of Dependable in assessing whether complete diversity of citizenship exists, both of which are apparent from the face of the Complaint:
- (a) The joinder of Dependable as a defendant in this action is manifestly fraudulent in that the Complaint does not seek any relief against Dependable, and is therefore a "sham." See, e.g., Dacosta v. Novartis AG, 180 F. Supp. 2d 1178, 1181 (D. Or. 2001). Not only does the Complaint fail to state a cause of action against Dependable, it does not even purport to do so. E.g., Plute v. Roadway Package System, Inc., 141 F. Supp. 2d 1005, 1008 (N.D.Cal. 2001). Plaintiffs name Dependable only in their First Cause of Action, which seeks a declaration that a controversy exists regarding rights and obligations under certain insurance policies (Complaint, ¶ 19). However, the specific dispute is alleged to be "whether INSCORP had and has a duty to defend and/or indemnify Dependable

(b) Even if that were not the case, it is also

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against" the construction defect actions (id.) On its face, this is not a dispute with Dependable; it is a dispute between three insurance companies. The declaration that is being sought is against INSCORP only. Nowhere is it alleged that Dependable is disputing that INSCORP has a duty to defend and/or indemnify Dependable. Of course any declaration by the Court of such a duty would run against INSCORP alone, and in favor of Dependable.

- plain on the face of the Complaint that the parties are misaligned. In determining issues of diversity, the Court "must align for jurisdictional purposes those parties whose interests coincide respecting the 'primary matter in dispute.'" Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. v. PPR Realty, Inc., 204 F.3d 867, 873 (9th Cir. 2000) (citation omitted). According to the Complaint, Dependable sought coverage under its INSCORP policy, which was denied (Complaint, ¶ 7). Plaintiffs in the removed action also seek coverage for Dependable under the INSCORP policy. Whether the INSCORP policy provides coverage for Dependable for the construction defect cases is the "primary matter in dispute" in the removed action and it is apparent that Dependable's interests are aligned with those of Plaintiffs, not with INSCORP on that question. For that reason the Court should realign Dependable with Plaintiffs and, once that is done, there is complete diversity of citizenship between all parties on the plaintiff side and INSCORP on the defense side.
- (c) Because Dependable is misaligned as a defendant in this action, the requirement that all defendants

# Case 3:07-cv-03421-VRW Document 1 Filed 06/29/2007 Page 7 of 16

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1	join in the removal of this action to federal court is not					
2	applicable and this removal is effective without Dependable's					
3	consent. E.g., Polyplastics, Inc. v. Transconex, Inc., 713 F.2					
4	875, 877 (1st Cir. 1983).					
5	5. INSCORP will comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) and					
6	(d) by promptly serving written notice of the filing of this					
7	Notice of Removal upon all parties and by filing such notice					
8	with the Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California					
9	for the County of Contra Costa.					
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11	COTKIN & COLLINS A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION					
12	he all of					
13	By Www F Wilson  Robert G. Wilson					
14	Attorneys for Defendant					
15	Dated: June 29, 2007 Insurance Corporation of New York					
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- TIG Insurance Company was formerly named Transamerica Insurance Company 2, (hereinafter TIG will be identified as "Transamerica"). At all relevant times herein, Transamerica is a corporation authorized to do business, and is doing business, under the laws of the State of California.
- At all relevant times herein, Insurance Corporation of New York ("Inscorp") was and 3. is a corporation authorized to do business, and is doing business, under the laws of the State of New York.
- At all relevant times herein, Dependable Sheet Metal ("Dependable") was and is a 4 corporation authorized to do business, and is doing business, under the laws of the State of California.
- The true names and capacities, whether individuals, corporations, partnerships, 5 associations or otherwise, of Does 1 through 10 are unknown to Plaintiffs, who therefore sue said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will move to amend this Complaint to state their true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.

#### GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- This action arises from underlying construction defect lawsuits, including but not 6 limited to at least twelve (12) underlying construction defect lawsuits (the "Dependable actions") entitled:
- Gary Kaiser, et al. v. KB Homes, et al., Contra Costa County Superior Court a. case number C05-00991.
- Tannaz Abzarian, et al. v. Richland Development Corporation, et al., Contra b. Costa County Superior Court case number C05-00147.
- Lorna Belsky, et al. v. The Presley Companies, et al., Contra Costa County Superior Court case number C05-00837.
- Ron Capella, et al. v. Kaufman Broad of Northern California, et al., Alameda County Superior Court case number RG 06259608.
- Jeff Crawford, et al. v. Western Pacific Housing, et al., El Dorado County Superior Court case number PC 20050255.

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1	f. Charles Edwards, et al. v. Suncrest Homes, et al., Contra Costa Count						
2	Superior Court case number C05-00387.						
3.	g. Kimberly Markham, et al. v. Kaufman Broad of Northern California, et al.						
4	Contra Costa County Superior Court case number C05-01580.						
5	h. John Craig, et al. v. KB Homes, et al., Contra Costa County Superior Cour						
6_	case number C06-02303.						
7	i. Beck, et al. v. Presley, et al., Alameda County Superior Court case number						
8	H 213382-3.						
9	j. Kenneth James, et al. v. Dependable Sheet Metal, et al., Contra Costa Count						
10	Superior Court case number C04-00175.						
11	k. O'Neill, et al. v. Presley, et al., Alameda County Superior Court case numbe						
12	H 214815-5.						
13	1. Thiara Rajendrapal, et al. v. William Lyon, et al., Alameda County Superio						
14	Court case number HG 04167197.						
15	<ol> <li>Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Dependable was name</li> </ol>						
16	as a Defendant or Cross-Defendant in the Dependable actions. Dependable, either directly						
17	through others acting on its behalf, provided notice of the Dependable actions and tendered						
18	Dependable's defense and indemnity to Inscorp, Ranger, and Transamerica.						
19	8. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Dependable was insured						
20	under commercial general liability insurance policies (the "Dependable policies") issued by Inscorp						
21	Ranger, and Transamerica as follows:						
22	a. Transamerica policy, number T7-35026957, effective from August 9, 1993						
23	to August 9, 1994.						
24	b. Transamerica policy, number T7-35026957, effective from August 9, 1994						
25	to August 9, 1995.						
26	c. Transamerica policy, number T7-35026957, effective from August 9, 1995						
27	to August 9, 1996.						
28							
	COMPLAINT						
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- Plaintiffs are informed and believe that, in each of the Dependable actions, the underlying claimants alleged that defective construction and/or property damage were first discovered within three (3) years prior to the filling dates of the claimants' initial Complaint.
- Plaintiffs are informed and believe that, in each of the Dependable actions, the underlying claimants filed their initial Complaints more than three (3) years after the end of the last Inscorp policy period on December 1, 2001.
- Plaintiffs are informed and believe that, in each of the Dependable actions, Inscorp, 13. citing the policy provisions alleged in paragraph 10 above, declined Dependable's tender of defense. Inscorp informed Dependable that the underlying claimants alleged "that the defects first manifest within three years of the filing of the Complaint.... This was after the expiration of your INSCORP policy and therefore not covered" or words to that effect.
- 14 Plaintiffs are informed and believe that, in each of the Dependable actions, Inscorp, in reliance upon the policy provisions alleged in paragraph 10 above, declined Dependable's tender of defense and failed to consider other possible manifestation times. According to the Inscorp endorsement, harm could manifest when: (1) the insured knows of appreciable harm; (2) the insured should have known of appreciable harm; (3) the claimant knows of appreciable harm; or (4) the claimant should have known of appreciable harm. Inscorp solely focused upon when the claimant alleged that it knew of appreciable harm and ignored at least three other possible times for manifestations of damage as provided for in its own endorsement, manifestations that could easily be within Inscorp's policy period.
- 15. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that, in each of the Dependable actions, Inscorp, in reliance upon the policy provisions alleged in paragraph 10 above, declined Dependable's tender of defense also in contravention of the holding in Garriott Crop Dusting Co. v. Superior Court (1990) 221 Cal.App.3d 783, which provides that an insurer cannot rely on a claimant's allegation regarding the statute of limitations as a coverage defense.
- Plaintiffs are informed and believe that, in each of the Dependable actions, Inscorp, 16. in reliance upon the policy provisions alleged in paragraph 10 above, declined Dependable's tender

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27 28 of defense in order to avoid being required to provide Dependable with independent counsel pursuant to Civil Code section-2860.

17. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that, in each of the Dependable actions, Inscorp, was a "recalcitrant" insurer, within the meaning of Safeco Insurance Company v. Superior Court (2006) 140 Cal. App. 4th 874. Therefore, all of the damages alleged by the claimants in each of the Dependable actions are presumed to have occurred exclusively within Inscorp's policy period(s) and Inscorp's scope of coverage.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

## (Declaratory Relief Against All Defendants)

- Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 17 as though fully set forth 18. herein.
- An actual controversy has arisen and now exists between Plaintiffs, on the one hand, 19. and Defendants, on the other hand, concerning their respective rights and obligations in the Dependable actions, including those under the Dependable policies. Plaintiffs allege that Inscorp had and has a duty to defend and/or indemnify Dependable against the Dependable actions under one or more of the general liability insurance policies issued by Inscorp, as alleged in paragraphs 8(e) to 8(f) above.

#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

# (Equitable Contribution Against Inscorp)

- Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 17 as though fully set forth 20. herein.
- If Plaintiffs provided a defense and/or indemnification for Dependable under any of 21. the Dependable actions, Plaintiffs are entitled to equitable contribution from Inscorp in an amount to be proved at trial.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

COMPLAINT

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and the state of t	1.	For a judgme	ent declaring	the respective rights and obligations of Plaintiffs and		
2	Defendants under the Dependable policies for the claims asserted in the Dependable actions;					
-3.						
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5	by Inscorp, a	is alleged in par	agraphs 8(c) t	o 8(f) above;		
6	3. ,	For a judgme	nt declaring t	hat Inscorp had and has a duty to indemnify Dependable		
7	against the $\it L$	ependable actio	ons under one	or more of the general liability insurance policies issued		
8	by Inscorp,	is alleged in par	agraphs 8(e) t	o 8(f) above;		
9	4.	For damages	according to	proof;		
10	5.	For an award	of Plaintiffs'	costs in this action; and		
11	6.	For other and	l further relief	f as the Court deems just and proper.		
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13	DATED: M	ay 29, 2007		YARON & ASSOCIATES		
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15			By:			
16				GEORGE D. VARON, ESQ., Attorneys for Plaintiffs		
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Form Adopted for Mandatory Use Audicide Council of California SUR4-100 (Rev. January 1, 2004)

(CITACION JUDICIAL)	FOR COURT USE ONLY
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OU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): AIRMONT SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, a Delaware	K. TORREC, ERROR THE COURT SUPERUR CREAT OF USE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF CONTRA COURT  BY  K. TORREC, ERROR THE COURT COUNTY OF CONTRA COURT  BY  K. TORREC, ERROR THE COURT  BY  BY  K. TORREC, ERROR THE COURT  BY  K.
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Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.cs.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your loc Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles on esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demendente. Una carte o una flamada scerito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la cort pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más infor California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanoi/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su conda	s legales pare presenter una respuesta por escrito telefonica no lo protegon: Su respuesta por to. Es posible que haya un formularlo que usted rmeción en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes da
puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formular. su respuesta a llampo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar. Hay otros regulalitas legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamen contribu de regulalita a abogado. Si co quede pagar a un abogado es posible que cumul	ido o en la corta que la queda más corca. Si no rio de exención de pego de cuotas. Si no presenta r su sualencia, dinero y blenes sin más advertencia. Ino conoce a un abogado, puede llemar a un la con los requisitos nara obtener aervicios.
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SUMMONS

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HENRY M. SU (SBN 171853)	•	
YARON & ASSOCIATES		
301 CALLFORNIA STREET, 218	r FLOOR	
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108		
TELEPROMINO: (415) 658-2929 ATTORNEY FOR PROMISE PAIRMONT SPECIA		MAY 2 9 2007
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF CO		
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demanded demanded (s exceeds \$25,000) \$25,000 or less)	(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)	or the second se
	must be completed (see instructions on	page 2).
1. Check one box below for the case type the		
Auto Tort	Contract	Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation
(Auto (22)	Breach of contract/warranty (05)	(Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.408-3.403)
Uninsered motories (48)	Collections (09) X Insurance coverage (18)	Antinust/Trade regulation (03)
Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort	Other contract (37)	Construction defect (10)
Asbesics (04)	Real Property	Securities Mication (28)
Product Hability (24)	Embreni domaštyl nyorse	Environmental/Todg last (30)
Medical malpractice (45)	condemnation (14)	insurance coverage daims arising from the
Other PI/PO/WD (23)	Wrongful eviction (33)	above listed provisionally complex case
Non-Pi/PD/WD (Other) Tort	Other real property (26)	types (41)
Business fort/unfair business practice (0	7) Uniawful Detainer	Enforcement of Judgment
Chuli rights (06)	Commercial (31)	Enforcement of judgment (20)
Defermation (13)	Residential (32)	Misceltaneous Civil Complaint
Fraud (16)	Oxuga (3.6)	ARCO (27)
Intellectual property (19)	Judicial Review	Other complaint (not specified above) (42) Mispelianeous Civil Petition
Professional negityence (25)	Asset forfelture (05) Petition re: erbitration award (11)	Parinership and corporate governance (21)
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	uniay regular mile 3 400 mf the Collifornia Ru	les of Court. If the case is complex, mark the
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a. Large number of separately repr	esented parties d. Large number	of winesses
b. X Extensive motion practice raising		with related actions pending in one or more coun
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Number of causes of action (specify): D	rcharatory religious birs. G. L.	
	ass action suit.	
6. If there are any known related cases, file		nav ilse form CM-015.V
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GEORGE D. YARON (SEN 96246)		HET EVA
THE OF PRETIME		YATHRE DE PARTY OR ATTOMINY FOR PARTY)
Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the	NOTICE  first paper filed in the action or proceeding	g (except small claims cases or cases filed
under the Probata Code, Family Code, or in sanctions.	wanase eno manunona code). (Ce. Rus	s of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may resul
<ul> <li>File this cover sheet in addition to serv cor</li> </ul>	ver sheet required by local court rule.	. 4.5
<ul> <li>If this case is complex under rule 3.400 e</li> </ul>	t seq. of the California Rules of Court, you	must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all
ciher parties to the action or proceeding.  Uniosa this is a complex case, this cover	sheet will be used for statistical rumoses.	Only. Page t of 2
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